

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03

OMB-01 DODE-00 SS-15 L-03 AGR-05 /073 W

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R 191042Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 4377

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

DEPT PASS DEA, ATTN: CUSACK/EOI

SUMMARY: DEA REPRESENTATIVES FROM BANGKOK REGIONAL OFFICE VISITED VIENTIANE JUNE 18 TO MAKE FINAL PAYMENTS TO GSI AND TO DISCUSS FUTURE NARCOTICS CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS WITH LAO OFFICIALS, UNFDAC REPRESENTATIVE, AND U.S. MISSION OFFICIALS. ONE TENTATIVE RECOMMENDATION RESULTING FROM VISIT IS THAT LAO-SPEAKING DEA AGENT BE ASSIGNED TO UDORN, THAILAND WITH POSSIBILITY OF PERIODIC VISITS TO VIENTIANE IF SITUATION PERMITS. END SUMMARY.

1. DEA DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR JOHN DOYLE AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER ED BERKOWITZ VISITED VIENTIANE JUNE 18 WHERE THEY MADE FINAL PAYMENT TO GROUPE SPECIAL D'INVESTIGATION (GSI) REP TOTALLING 5,103,500 KIP (EQUIVALENT TO U.S. \$6,804 AT EXCHANGE RATE OF 750 KIP TO U.S. \$1) PLUS U.S. \$200. FINAL PAYMENT WAS MADE IN EFFICIENT AND AMICABLE MANNER.

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2. COL SOUNTHONE SUNDARA, THE SENIOR REMAINING LAO

GOVERNMENT NARCOTICS OFFICIAL, STATED HIS HOPE THAT USG WOULD BE ABLE TO REINSTITUTE ITS NARCOTICS EFFORT IN LAOS AFTER PERIOD OF READJUSTMENT, BUT THAT GIVEN NEW SITUATION IN LAOS OFFICIAL USG CONTACT WITH THE NATIONAL NARCOTICS BUREAU (NNB -- NEW NAME FOR GSI) WOULD HAVE TO PASS THROUGH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE AGREED THAT INFORMAL CONTACT BETWEEN U.S. EMBASSY AND NNB REPRESENTATIVES CAN CONTINUE BUT SAID THAT ANY OFFICIAL ACTION ON HIS PART WOULD REQUIRE INSTRUCTIONS FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ALL PARTICIPANTS REALIZED THAT THE DAYS OF CLOSE OPERATIONAL COOPERATION IN NARCOTICS AREA ARE OVER.

3. SOUNTHONE NOTED THAT, WHILE LAO GOVERNMENT HAS YET TO DECIDE EXACTLY HOW IT WILL ORGANIZE ITS ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT, IT DOES WANT TO CONTINUE ATTACKING HEROIN PROBLEM. HE STATED THAT 1971 ANTI-NARCOTICS LAW WILL NOT BE REPEALED, BUT ONLY AMENDED TO ELIMINATE ITS ANTI-OPIMUM PROVISIONS.

4. DR. ALEXANDRE ARNAUD, UNFIDAC REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENTIANE, TOLD DEA VISITORS AND EMBOFF THAT THIS IS A TIME FOR PATIENCE AND THAT HE HIMSELF IS MOVING VERY SLOWLY. HE NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT NOTHING IS GOING ON AT AN EXPERIMENTAL AGRICULTURAL PROJECT IN MUONG KASSY; IN FACT, HE IS NOT EVEN PERMITTED TO VISIT THE SITE AT PRESENT. HE SAID HIS PGNU CONTACTS HAVE MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT THEY ARE SENSITIVE ABOUT ENFORCEMENT PROJECTS AND HE EXPRESSED SCEPTICISM THAT PGNU WILL WANT TO COOPERATE WITH USG IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT MATTERS.

5. CHARGE ASSURED MESSRS. DOYLE AND BERKOWITZ THAT THIS MISSION RETAINS KEEN INTEREST IN NARCOTICS PROBLEM; DECISION TO ELIMINATE DEA PRESENCE IN VIENTIANE WAS RELATED TO (A) THE VERY STRICT PERSONNEL CEILING WHICH HAS BEEN IMPOSED ON US BY WASHINGTON, AND (B) THE UNLIKELIHOOD OF COOPERATION WITH PGNU IN UNFRIENDLY CLIMATE NOW PREVAILING IN VIENTIANE. CHARGE SAID WE WILL HAVE TO GO TO GROUND ZERO AND START REBUILDING FROM THERE. DEA REPS INDICATED THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD THE SITUATION.

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6. DEA PROPOSED THAT ONE OF THE DEA AGENTS WHO RECENTLY COMPLETED LAO LANGUAGE TRAINING SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TO UDORN TO WORK ON THE DRUG PROBLEM IN NORTHERN THAILAND. THIS AGENT MIGHT ALSO BE ABLE TO VISIT VIENTIANE FROM TIME-TO-TIME SHOULD THE ATMOSPHERE HERE IMPROVE. CHARGE ASSURED DEA REPS THAT MISSION WILL REMAIN ALERT TO ANY CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES THAT WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR A DEA REPRESENTATIVE TO BE ASSIGNED TO LAOS

ONCE AGAIN. THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT SUCH AN
ASSIGNMENT COULD BE EXPECTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE, HOWEVER.
CHAPMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI04377
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750213-1133
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750632/aaaabdng.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: SNAR, US, LA, DEA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006